



June 1999

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 9 No. 6

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ☒ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Are You Ready



According to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Director Polli Brunelli, "It's not too early to start preparing for the 2000 elections; we have already begun work on our election year 2000 voter outreach effort".

Leading the effort was the kick-off for the 1999 Voting Slogan Contest (there is still time to enter, see article on page 3) and the distribution of the "Communicating With Your Elected Officials 106th Congress & State Governors 2000-2001 pamphlet" in March. Still to come are the 2000-2001 Voting Assistance Guide and the 2000 Primary Election Calendar (which are currently being coordinated with the states and territories) and new Voting Posters, all of which will be completed this Fall.

The voter outreach effort is designed for citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. Each Federal department and agency with personnel covered by the *Act* is required to have a Voting Assistance Program in place. The Uniformed Services have an extensive Chain-of-Command to support their Voting

the voter outreach effort, the FVAP wants to emphasize the VAOs crucial role in a successful Voting Assistance Program. VAOs, in military or civilian arenas, are responsible for providing accurate, non-partisan voting information and assistance to those citizens who want to exercise their right to vote. In fact, the knowledge and effectiveness of a VAO, combined with a comprehensive voting assistance plan, may very well determine whether a citizen will understand how and when to participate in the election process.

VAOs are an integral part of the FVAP and as such serve as an extension of the Program, capable of reaching out and assisting people daily. We realize that many VAOs are new to the job and may find it difficult to provide voting assistance or answer voting related questions. With the 2000 elections just around the corner, not to mention the many elections happening on an almost daily basis at the State and local level, the necessity for voting assistance training is great. For this reason, the FVAP will be conducting extensive training workshops which are imperative to the FVAP's voter outreach efforts.

The FVAP will gear voting assistance training workshops at familiarizing VAOs (at military installations, U.S. Embassies/Consulates and U.S. citizen organizations and corporations) with their duties and the resources available to them when assisting citizens in requesting registration and an absentee ballot from their state.

At this time, a workshop schedule is being

Election Year 2000 Training

Assistance Programs. In addition, the Department of State offers voting services through its Embassies and Consulates to all U.S. citizens outside the United States. At the same time, corporations and organizations with U.S. citizens overseas are strongly encouraged to support their own Voting Assistance Programs, which many have implemented in the last few years.

Critical to the success of these programs are the Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs). In preparing for

planned. There will be both on-site as well as Video Teleconference (VTC) presentations (web-based training for VAOs unable to attend either the on-site or teleconference workshops will also be available). The workshops will have an interactive format that provide participants with examples of many of the various absentee voting procedures of the states and territories. The FVAP designed the training to make it easier for VAOs to help individuals follow the proper procedures in order to cast an absentee ballot.

Now is the time to begin making plans and preparing for a successful voter assistance effort. If you would like more information about participating in a planned training workshop near you or if you would be interested in helping coordinate a workshop or registration drive for your command, organization or corporation, please contact Ms. Sherri Morris directly at the FVAP (contact information on page 2) or your Service Voting Action Officer (contact information on page 3). As the workshop schedule becomes available, the dates, times and places will be provided in this newsletter and on the FVAP website www.fvap.gov. Please keep in mind that workshops and registration drives will be held at particular locations contingent upon a minimum of 75 participants. ✓

VTC



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**1999 Voting Slogan Contest
Deadline Approaching Fast! See Page 3!**

Stateside

Legislative Update - The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works with the legislatures of the states and territories to further facilitate the electoral process and help citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* to exercise their right to vote. The following is current information that may affect UOCAVA citizens.

What has the FVAP been up to?

The following is a legislative initiative suggested to states and territories that do not already have a law in place regarding Late Registration Procedures. To date twenty-three states currently allow such procedures.

Currently many states do not allow for persons who have recently separated from the Armed Forces or overseas employment, and their family members, to be able to register late or be exempt from registration. Many members of the Armed Forces and overseas citizens go through a transition period when they first leave the Armed Forces or overseas employment and may reside in a state just prior to an election and this time frame does not meet the state's normal residency requirements. Often, the date of discharge or termination of overseas employment and a state's registration requirement combine to disenfranchise a discharged military member or overseas citizen returning home after employment abroad. Special procedures to allow these persons to register and vote would solve this problem.

Follow links from the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov for additional information regarding timely legislative news in your state which may affect your absentee voting process! ✓

1998/99 Voting Assistance Guide Update

The Bexar County, Texas County Clerk address has been changed to:

Bexar County Clerk
100 Dolorosa, Suite 108
San Antonio, TX 78205-3083

Please note these changes in Chapter 3 of the 1998/99 Voting Assistance Guide. ✓

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

[] Begin planning your voting assistance program's outreach effort for the upcoming 2000 election year. Plan to participate in one of the training workshops conducted by the FVAP (see Training, pg. 1 for more information).

[] The 1999 Voting Slogan Contest ends next month. Encourage participation in the contest by all UOCAVA citizens. Post information about the contest so that everyone will have access to the contest guidelines and be able to participate in the contest (see contest guidelines on pg. 3). Participants may submit as many entries as they wish. Hurry - the deadline for submissions is **July 6, 1999**.

[] Support and encourage participation in state and local elections (when eligible - state by state guidelines for eligibility are in Chapter 3 of the 1998/1999 Voting Assistance Guide). Take an inventory of your voting materials and ensure sufficient quantities are on hand. Many states have scheduled elections in 1999, including special and run-off elections.

[] Remind citizens that most states require a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to be submitted each calendar year. Check the 1998/1999 Voting Assistance Guide (available in a hard copy version or electronically at the FVAP website www.fvap.gov) for state specific instructions and guidelines.

[] Ensure that people know how to get in touch with you for voting assistance. Set aside time to assist those with voting questions. Don't forget that the FVAP is here to help you if you cannot find the help you need locally.

[] Make sure you are on the distribution list for FVAP voting newsreleases and this newsletter; and forward information from these publications to your command or unit. Mr. Matthew Knefel (see contact information listed below) is the point of contact for amendments to the distribution list. Please note: E-mail (vote@fvap.gov) is proving to be one of the most effective and efficient means of communication with this office.

[] Visit the FVAP's site on the World Wide Web frequently for up-to-date, on-line information and resources on the Program as well as links to other sites of interest in carrying out your duties as a VAO. The FVAP is continually adding to the website. A recent new addition to the website is the "Communicating With Your Elected Officials, 106th Congress & State Governors 1999-2000 pamphlet." ✓

Federal Voting Assistance Program

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<http://www.fvap.gov>



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1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

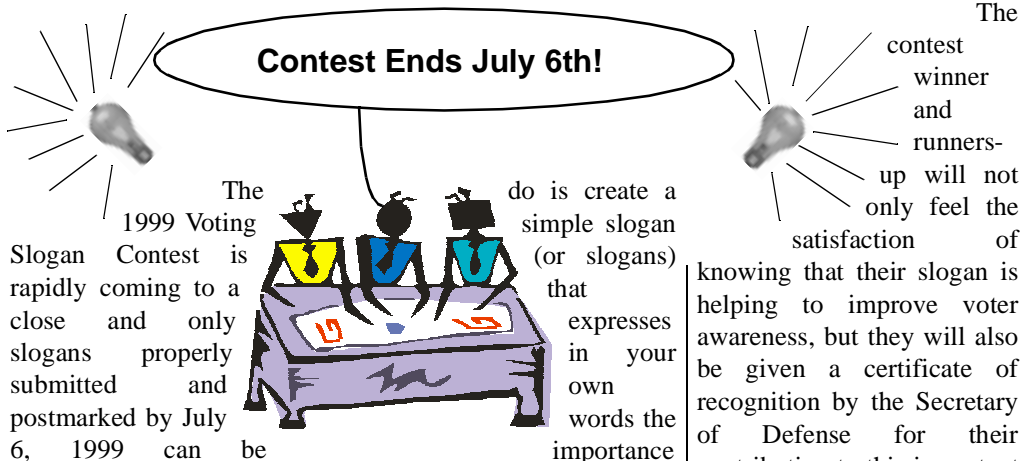


Phone: 703-588-1584
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TOLL FREE 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)



Fax: 703-588-0108
DSN 425-0108

Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.



All submissions (including e-mail) must include your full name, service, if military, mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address (if applicable). If submitting by mail or fax, please type or print (legibly) on regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.

Send entries via one of the following methods:

E-mail: vote@fvap.gov

Fax (No cover sheet is necessary):

(703) 588-0108 or DSN 425-0108

Mail:

Federal Voting Assistance Program

ATTN: Voting Slogan Contest

Washington Headquarters Services

1155 Defense Pentagon

Washington DC 20301-1155

There is not much time left, so send your slogan today. You could be one of this year's winners! ☑

Call the Voting Information Center (VIC)

Keep up with the latest news from Congress or your homestate. Contact your U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor, State Chief Election Official and Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer through this automated touch-tone service.

The VIC is operational 24 hours a day. Rotary and overseas callers can access the system by voicing their responses with the system's speech recognition feature. Voting Assistance Officers may also contact their Service and State Department Voting Action Officers through the VIC.

Call the VIC toll-free from 50 countries on 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) using the AT&T access code for the country you are calling from (Access Codes listed on page 4). In the U.S. call local toll-free at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), commercial (703) 588-1343 or use DSN (military) 425-1343. ☑

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Ron Hawkins **tel:** (202) 647-9100 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201
E-mail: HAWKINSRE@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emh1.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Mr. Ed Roscoe **tel:** (901) 874-4368, toll-free: (800) 368-5056 **tel DSN:** 882-4368, **fax:** (901) 874-2630, **fax DSN:** 882-2630 **E-mail:** p662j@persnet.navy.mil

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Marine Corps: Gunnery Sergeant Dennis Hellberg **tel:** (703) 784-9511 **tel DSN:** 278-9511, **fax:** (703) 784-9828, **fax DSN:** 278-9828 **E-mail:** Dennis_J_Hellberg@manpower.usmc.mil

U.S. Coast Guard: MCPO Bruce Leason **tel:** (202) 267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: bleason@comdt.uscg.mil

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

Toll-free For FVAP**AT&T Access Code for 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**

Country(Notes)	AT&T Access Code	Country(Notes)	AT&T Access Code
Antigua (3)	1-800-872-2881	Korea, Republic of (1)	0072-911 or 0030-911
(Public Card Phones) #1		550-HOME (7) or 550-2USA (7)	
Australia	1-800-881-011	Liechtenstein (1)	0-800-890011
Bahamas	1-800-872-2881	Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Bahrain	800-001	Malaysia (11)	1-800-80-0011
Barbados (13)	1-800-872-2881	Mexico (12)	01-800-288-2872 or
Belgium (1)	0-800-100-10		001-800-462-4240
Bermuda (8)	1-800-872-2881	Monaco (1)	800-90-288
Brazil	000-8010	Netherlands (1)	0800-022-9111
Canada	1-800-225-5288	Netherlands Antilles	001-800-872-2881
Chile	800-800-311 or	New Zealand	000-911
	800-800-288	Norway	800-190-11
(Easter Island)	000-311	Panama	109
China, PRC (8)	10811	(Canal Zone)(1)	281-0109
(Hong Kong)	800-96-1111	Philippines (1)	105-11
Colombia	980-11-0010	Portugal (8)	05017-1-288
Costa Rica	0-800-0-114-114	San Marino (1)	172-1011
Denmark	8001-0010	Singapore (3)	800-0111-111
Dominican Republic (1,10,15)		Spain	900-99-00-11
	1-800-872-2881	Sweden	020-795-611
Finland (1)	9800-100-10	Switzerland (1)	0-800-890011
France	0800-99-00-11	Taiwan (1)	0080-10288-0
Germany	0130-0010	Thailand (3,5)	001-999-111-11
Greece (1)	00-800-1311	Trinidad and Tobago	0800-872-2881
Hungary (1)	00 * 800-01111	United Kingdom (8)	0500-89-0011 or
Indonesia (16)	001-801-10		0800-89-0011
Ireland	1-800-550-000	United States (17)	1-800-225-5288
Israel	1-800-94-94-949 or	Uruguay (3)	000-410
	1-800-92-22-222 or		
	1-800-93-33-333		
Italy (1)	172-1011		
Japan KDD (1)	005-39-111		
Japan IDC (1,8)	0066-55-111		

* = Wait for second dial tone.

1 = Public phones require coin or card deposit.

3 = AT&T Direct calls cannot be placed to this country from outside the U.S.

5 = Not available from public phones.

7 = U.S. Military Bases Only.

8 = May not be available from every phone/pay phone.

10 = Collect calling only.

11 = Public phones require local coin payment through the call duration.

12 = When calling from public phones, use phones marked "Ladatel."

13 = Available from public phones only.

15 = Calling Card calls available from select hotels.

16 = Use phones allowing international access.

17 = Including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Federal Voting Assistance Program
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